

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-17 (cancelled).

18 (new). Method for the prevention and treatment of vaginal fungal infections which comprises the administration of a formulation comprising ascorbic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a patient in need of such a treatment wherein said formulation is administered after completion of the standard treatment against bacterial, fungal or protozoarian infections.

19 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation is administered after completion of a standard treatment with one or more antimicrobial agents.

20 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said antimicrobial agents are selected from the classes antibacteric/antibiotics, antitrichomonas, and/or antifungal agents.

21 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said antimicrobial agents are selected from miconazole and metronidazole.

22 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation has a content in ascorbic acid from 0.1 to 25%, with respect to the total weight of the formulation.

23 (new). Method according to claim 22, wherein said formulation has a content in acid ascorbic from 0.5 to 15%, preferably from 1.0 to 10%, with respect to the total weight of the formulation.

24 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said fungal infection is a recurrence.

25 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said fungal infection is a superinfection.

26 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said fungal infections are caused by *Candida albicans*.

27 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said fungal infection are caused by *Dermatophytes*.

28 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation is for topical application.

29 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein ascorbic acid is the only active ingredient contained in the formulation.

30 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation includes customary excipients and or adjuvants.

31 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein ascorbic acid is contained in the formulation in unitary dosages suitable for its application from 10 to 500 mg/day.

32 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation is in a form suitable for application to external genitals, scalp, intertriginous areas, or for insertion into the vagina, or for mouthwashes.

33 (new). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation includes: cream, ointment, gel, lotion or foam for either skin or vaginal application; moreover tablets, pessaries, capsules for vaginal application; possible forms for delayed melting, intended to prolonged release of active principle; collutorium for mouthwashes.